

Message Text

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72

ORIGIN AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 FEA-02 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 OMB-01

SWF-02 /165 R

DRAFTED BY AGRIC:DDLOUHY:STR:TGRAHAM:PAW

APPROVED BY EA/PHL:DCCUTHELL

EA/PHL:RTWILLNER (DRAFT)

EB/GCP:DDUNFORD (DRAFT)

EB/OF:RSIMPSON (SUBSTANCE)

COMMERCE:WPOUNDS (SUBSTANCE)

TREASURY:JJOHNSON (SUBSTANCE)

DEFENSE:JDARLING (SUBSTANCE)

STR:DWHITNACK (DRAFT)

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P 102231Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 148910

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, RP

SUBJECT: COCONUT OIL CONCESSION

REFS: A. STATE 140592

B. MANILA 7439

FOR MEMBERS OF DELEGATION

1. AMBIGUITIES WHICH HAVE ARISEN IN THE MANNER IN WHICH
TRADE REFORM ACT TARIFF REDUCTION AUTHORITY MAY APPLY TO
RATES OF DUTY ON COCONUT OIL MAKE IT NECESSARY FOR THE
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DELEGATION TO BE CAUTIOUS IN DISCUSSING A POSSIBLE CON-

CESSION ON COCONUT OIL WITH THE PHILIPPINES.

2. APART FROM PROBLEM (DISCUSSED PARA 2 OF REF A), OF 60 PER CENT LIMIT ON TARIFF REDUCTIONS, DEPENDING ON DETERMINATION OF AD VALOREM EQUIVALENT, THERE IS FURTHER QUESTION. HOUSE-PASSED AND CURRENT SENATE VERSIONS OF TRA PROVIDE FOR REDUCTION IN RATES OF DUTY "EXISTING ON JULY 1, 1973". SINCE JULY 4, 1974 TSUS ITEM 176.04, FOR WHICH COLUMN 1 RATE IS 1 CENT PER LB., IS THE ONLY OPERATIVE TARIFF ITEM FOR COCONUT OIL. NEVERTHELESS, QUESTION HAS ARISEN AS TO WHETHER TRA REDUCTION AUTHORITY CAN BE APPLIED TO 1 CENT PER LB. RATE SINCE ITEM 176.04 WAS NOT OPERATIVE ON JULY 1, 1973. AT THAT TIME MFN RATE FOR CRUDE COCONUT OIL WAS 3 CENTS PER LB. THIS COULD EFFECTIVELY PREVENT ANY ACTUAL REDUCTION IN THE CURRENT RATE OF DUTY ON COCONUT OIL ON THE BASIS OF TRA AUTHORITY AS PRESENTLY DRAFTED.

3. SPECIFICAITON OF JULY 1, 1973 IN TRA SECTION 101 (B) APPARENTLY IS OBSOLETE, AND WE EXPECT THAT CONTROLLING DATE FOR TARIFF REDUCTIONS WILL BE REVISED TO A DATE LATER THAN JULY 4, 1974, BEFORE BILL ENACTED. HOWEVER, UNTIL SUCH A CHANGE IS INCORPORATED IN PROPOSED BILL, LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY WITH REGARD TO MEANINGFUL CONCESSION ON COCONUT OIL REMAINS SOMEWHAT UNCLEAR. ADVISE DELEGATION TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE COCONUT OIL CONCESSION IN TERMS OF BEST EFFORTS.

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Message Attributes

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